

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za%C2%A0> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

While the problems experienced by some members accessing the SARL web pages are being attended to, an additional channel is now available from this Sunday. To download the weekly SARL News audio recordings and to listen to, or download Amateur Radio Today, log on to [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za).

In the news today:

### SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB CONTEST ON 16 MARCH

BOOK NOW FOR THE “SARL TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO THE DIGITAL AGE” SYMPOSIUM

and

### THE SARL VHF/UHF ANALOGUE CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

Congratulations to Leon Foot, ZS4Y who was elected as the Secretary of the Moderamen of the Free State Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church for the next four years.

### SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB CONTEST ON 16 MARCH

The second leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club contest takes place from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 16 March with CW, RTTY and phone activity during the hour long contest. The exchange is an RS, RST or RSQ report, your Club abbreviation and your 4-character grid square. Look on page 57 of the Blue Book for the Club abbreviations. Submit your log by 21:59 UTC on Monday 21 March by e-mail to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za). The rules are on page 58 of the 2022 Blue Book.

### THE 2022 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION BOOKLET

The 2022 SARL National Convention Booklet is available for download from the front page of the SARL web site. The Booklet contains the programme for the Amateur Radio in the Digital Age Symposium on Saturday 9 April and the agenda for the SARL AGM on Saturday 23 April 2022. This includes

the proposed budget and membership fees for 2022/2023, the two motions for discussion and a proposal to host the 2023 SARL National Convention.

#### **SUCCESSFUL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE CARRIED OUT ON QO-100 SATELLITE**

IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB reports that on 26 February, 22 stations representing 14 countries within IARU Region 1 took part in a short-notice exercise using the geostationary satellite QO-100. This was the first of a number of smaller exercises, tests and meetings to be held by IARU Region 1 throughout the year, building on the earlier Global Simulated Emergency Tests to cover as many aspects of emergency communications as possible. The intention is to bring emergency communicators together more frequently to demonstrate how the Amateur Radio Service can work together as a global community and develop a common understanding of each other's capabilities.

The exercise was deemed a success, with a number of formal messages passed among stations and some lessons learned from the inevitable challenges of equipment failure, language barriers and co-ordination of an exercise with a coverage area from South Africa to the United Kingdom. Once all the exercise feedback is received, another test on QO-100 is planned for October 2022.

"QO-100 brings another asset to the emergency communications toolbox in Region 1 and its presence is much appreciated," Greg Mossop, G0DUB, commented.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

#### **BOOK NOW FOR THE SARL "TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO THE DIGITAL AGE" SYMPOSIUM**

The SARL "Taking Amateur Radio into the Digital Age" Symposium will be held on Saturday 9 April 2022 starting at 10:00 CAT on the BlueJeans platform. It is free for SARL and AMSAT SA members. Register now! Click on the link on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) or [www.amsatsa.org.za](http://www.amsatsa.org.za).

IARU Region 1 president, Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, will take the lid off Software Defined Radio and amateur radio applications. Cor Rademeyer will talk about detecting RF propagation disturbances by analysing GPS position data, Brian Jacobs will present an update on the SARL next generation beacon project and has some interesting new information about a new beacon kit that is currently being tested. We will explore the NCDXF HF beacon system, a boon for DXers. Find out more about the SARL-100 project and the AMSAT SA AfriCUBE satellites.

#### **WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY IS 18 APRIL**

DARC, the German IARU Member Society's Team SES will activate special call sign DA22WARD from 1 March until 30 April in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April. QSL via the bureau, or direct to DL2VFR. And REF,

the French IARU Member Society has announced that special event station TM97WARD will be on the air from 16 to 25 April to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), which takes place each year on 18 April.

#### THE SARL VHF/UHF ANALOGUE CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

The first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest runs from 03:00 to 09:00 UTC on Saturday 19 March and again on Sunday 20 March 2022. The first two hours on Saturday is spent on 6 metres, followed by two hours on 2 metres and the last two hours on 70 cm. On Sunday, the first two hours is on 2 metres, followed by two hours on 6 metres and ending off with two hours on 70 cm. The exchange is an RS signal report and your full six-digit Maidenhead locator. Turn to page 18 of the 2022 SARL Blue Book for all the information.

Clubs and groups hosting the contests are once again reminded to submit an item about their contest for the SARL News.

#### CONTEST NEWS

Fifteen logs from ZS2 and ZS6 were received for the first SARL VHF/UHF FM contest for the year.

1<sup>st</sup> the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, ZS2PE – 11 505 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Pierre Holtzhausen, ZS6PJH – 4 403 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen Stuttard, ZS6SKY – 1 904 points

Only 44 logs were received for the 1st leg of the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest and not 45 as reported last Sunday. An error was identified in one log changing the scoring.

#### Club Scores

1<sup>st</sup> the West Rand ARC - 1 252 points

2<sup>nd</sup> the Northern Cape ARC - 378 points

3<sup>rd</sup> the Bloemfontein ARC - 361 points

#### Individual Scores

1<sup>st</sup> Michael, ZS4BHF - 181 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, ZS4JAN - 180 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Gerhard, ZS3TG - 158 points

4<sup>th</sup> Kobus, ZS6BOS - 147 points

#### WHO CAN HELP?

Stuart, ZR1SB is looking for assistance in getting vintage military radios, roughly 100 kg of radios, from Bloemfontein to Somerset-West. If you can help Stuart, contact him on e-mail [stuart@burgess.org.za](mailto:stuart@burgess.org.za).

## PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently a couple of sunspots with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a chance of C-class and a slight chance of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 64. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

- 16 March – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest
- 17 March – inland schools close
- 18 March – the closing date for the Field Day Logs
- 19 and 20 March – the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest
- 20 March – the Autumn Equinox at 17:32 CAT
- 21 March – Human Rights Day and the Namibian Independence Day
- 23 March – the Sandton Talking Tech Power Hour
- 25 March – coastal schools close
- 26 March – the Sandton ARC Fox hunt
- 26 and 27 March – the CQ WPX SSB Contest
- 27 March – the closing date for the VHF/UHF Analogue logs
- 1 April – the start of the SAMOC April Word Search
- 2 April – the start of Ramadan, the RaDAR Challenge and the Pretoria ARC Flea Market

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The second leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club contest takes place from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 16 March with CW, RTTY and phone activity during the hour long contest. The rules are on page 58 of the 2022 Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof read by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.